

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3544

DOD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, SN

SUBJECT: MAP TRAINING FOR SINGAPORE

REFS: (A) SINGAPORE 2166; (B) SINGAPORE 2386

1. REF A FORWARDED AN AIDE MEMOIRE FROM GOS REQUESTING THAT USG PROVIDE MAP (TRAINING ONLY) IN A MODEST AMOUNT. AT THAT TIME EMBASSY FELT REQUEST WAS UNWISE IN VIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PRESSURES ON ALL MAP. CONSEQUENTLY EMBASSY DISCOURAGED GOS FROM FURTHER PURSUIT OF MAP TRAINING ON BASIS THAT IT MIGHT SERVE TO BRING TOTAL GOS PROGRAM UNDER EXCESS PUBLIC SCRUTINY. IN RESPONSE, GOS WITHDREW AIDE MEMOIRE (REF B). THIS WITHDRAWAL WAS DIRECTLY IN RESPONSE TO OUR EFFORTS HERE AND NOT A GOS INITIATIVE.

2. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS SINCE JUNE, SPECIFICALLY THE CROW/SHACKLEY TEAM VISIT, DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR ANALYST OMB (EISENHOUR), AND GREATLY INCREASED GOS INTEREST IN FMS ITEMS AND TRAINING, HAVE CAUSED EMBASSY TO RE-EVALUATE ATTITUDE TOWARD MODEST MAP TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SINGAPORE. BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD RECONSIDER GOS REQUEST IN REF A.

3. WHILE GOS HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO ACQUIRE BOTH EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED TRAINING THROUGH FMS CASH PURCHASE, BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS DO EXIST AND ON OCCASION CAUSE GOS TO NEGLECT SOME ESSENTIAL TRAINING DECISIONS, REGARDLESS OF DAO
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ADVICE. WE FEEL THAT CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF PRESENT AND PRO-

JECTED GOS PROGRAMS UNDER FMS, A MODEST MAP TRAINING BUDGET ADMINISTERED BY DAO SINGAPORE, ACTING AS A MAAG IN THIS CASE, WOULD ENABLE THESE EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS TO PROGRESS SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER. IT WOULD ENABLE THE COUNTRY TEAM TO FORESEE AND PROGRAM THOSE ESSENTIAL TRAINING COURSES TO RENDER EQUIPMENT PURCHASES SATISFACTORY.

4. WHILE PARA 3 ABOVE IS THE PRIME REASON FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MAP TRAINING, WE SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK THE OBVIOUS POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF SUCH A PROGRAM. SINGAPORE IS THE ONLY ASEAN COUNTRY NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PROGRAM, A FACT WHICH SERVES AS A SOURCE OF SOME IRRITATION TO GOS, AND IN EMBASSY OPINION THE PRECIPITANT FOR THE ORIGINAL REQUEST. WHILE THE USG SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WITH MALAYSIA/ SINGAPORE/INDONESIA MUTUAL SECURITY COOPERATION, THE USE OF SOME MAP COURSES TO BRING MILITARY OFFICERS OF THESE THREE ASEAN NATIONS TOGETHER COULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT INDIRECT INFLUENCE FOR COOPERATION.

5. IN VIEW OF ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, REQUEST SINGAPORE BE INCLUDED IN FY 77 AND FOLLOW-ON MAP (TRAINING ONLY) PROGRAM AT APPROXIMATE LEVEL OF 500,000 DOLLARS. IN ADDITION, AND AS EXPRESSION OF FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARD ASSISTANCE, IF FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE FY '76 PROGRAM, REQUEST A TOKEN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 50 THOUSAND DOLLARS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO OFFER GOS ADDITIONAL TRAINING THIS YEAR.
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